

From: hglee@hglee.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/4/02 7:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am of the opinion that the so-called "trial" of Microsoft is an abomination in a country that represents itself to be founded on the principles of individual rights. Microsoft has done more to advance the personal computer age than any other ten companies combined.

The premise that Microsoft achieved these great heights through "coercion" is farcical. Take a look around the market today, and you will find that the majority of products are designed for the Microsoft platform because the company is successful, not because they were compelled to at the point of a gun--only the imperial federal government possesses that particular methodology.

If you are truly concerned with public comment and the "public interest," then as a member of the public I implore you to leave well enough alone. There is no calculating the harm that you have already done this company (and how much this has "cost the American consumer"). Back off now, and let Microsoft's productive genius go unmolested unless and until it commits a bona fide crime of some sort.

Please keep in mind that the only legitimate function for a government is to protect its citizens from force or fraud; Microsoft has committed neither. If you want to truly pursue a prosecution that will be a "victory for consumers everywhere," then close this matter and let Microsoft continue to improve the lives of countless individuals--programmers, stockholders, innovators, businessmen, and especially consumers.

If the DoJ is truly interested in "settling" this case properly, I submit that the only proper way to do that is to quit the prosecution, to apologize profusely and publicly, and to pay restitution for the unnecessary waste of this company's time over the last two years. Only then can the DoJ begin to earn the title of "Department of Justice."

--H.G. Lee, Atlanta, GA